

Cont
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28. (New) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the reaction medium contains water in an amount of less than 2% by weight.

29. (New) The process as claimed in claim 20 which is carried out in the presence of a halogen-containing promoter in an amount of less than or equal to 15% by weight of the reaction medium.

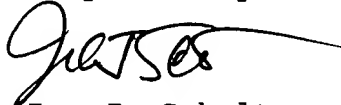
Sub B2 30. (New) The process as claimed in claim 21 which is carried out in the presence of an ester in an amount of less than 30% by weight of the reaction mixture.--

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to delete all multiple dependencies and to generally place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice.

Submitted herewith is the Search Report of the corresponding International application, together with copies of the references cited therein, which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

1. (Amended) A process for the preparation of acetic acid, [and/or] methyl acetate or both acetic acid and methyl acetate in [the] a liquid phase reaction medium [by the] comprising carbonylation of methanol, [and/or the] isomerization of methyl formate or both processes, in the presence of water, a solvent, a homogeneous catalyst system comprising iridium and a halogen-containing promoter, and carbon monoxide, wherein said catalyst system also comprises platinum.

2. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which is a process for the carbonylation of methanol wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $200 \cdot 10^5$ Pa is maintained throughout the [reaction] process.

3. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which is a process for the isomerization of methyl formate wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $25 \cdot 10^5$ Pa is maintained throughout the [reaction] process.

4. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which comprises a simultaneous methanol carbonylation reaction and a methyl formate isomerization reaction, [simultaneously and] wherein said process is carried out under a carbon monoxide

partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $25 \cdot 10^5$ Pa throughout the [reaction] process.

5. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the platinum is introduced into said catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum [in the metallic state], a platinum salt or an oxide.

6. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of a coordination complex[, preferably a coordination complex of this metal with ligands selected from carbon monoxide, a carbon monoxide/halogen combination and organonitrogen and organophosphorus compounds].

9. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, [or 7] wherein a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of iridium to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

10. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein said catalyst system also contains rhodium.

11. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein [the atomic ratio of] rhodium [to] and iridium [is]

are maintained in an atomic ratio of rhodium to iridium of
between 0.01 and 99.

12. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, [or 11] wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum [in the metallic state], a platinum salt or a platinum oxide, and a platinum content of at least 4 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 2 and 5 are maintained.

13. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, [or 11] wherein the platinum is introduced in the form of a coordination complex [as defined in one of claims 6 or 7], and a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

14. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, wherein a concentration of iridium [and, if appropriate, iridium and rhodium] in the reaction medium of between 0.1 and 100 mmol/l[, preferably of between 1 and 20 mmol/l,] is [used] maintained.

15. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 14] claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of a water content less than or equal to 14% by weight[, based

on the total weight] of the reaction medium[, and preferably a content less than or equal to 10% by weight].

16. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 15 wherein only the carbonylation of methanol is carried out and [this is done in the presence of a water content of] the reaction medium contains water in an amount of between 2 and 8% by weight [of the reaction medium].

17. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 15 which [involves] comprises a methyl formate isomerization reaction and[, if appropriate] optionally, a simultaneous methanol carbonylation reaction and [this is carried out in the presence of a water content of] the reaction medium contains water in an amount of less than 5% [and preferably of less than 2%] by weight [of the reaction medium].

18. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 17] claim 1, wherein said halogen-containing promoter [can be the] comprises an elemental halogen [by itself] or [can comprise] a halogen in a compound with hydrogen or a methyl or acetyl radical.

20. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 19] claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of a [content of] halogen-containing promoter in an amount of less than or equal to 20% by weight[, based on the total

weight] of the reaction [mixture, and preferably less than 15%] medium.

21. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 20] claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of an ester [content] in an amount of less than 40% by weight[, based on the total weight] of the reaction medium [mixture, and preferably of less than 30%].

22. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1, wherein iodides are introduced into the reaction medium in [proportions such that the] an amount sufficient to maintain an atomic ratio of soluble iodides introduced into the reaction medium to iridium [is kept below] of less than 10.

23. (Amended) The process as claimed in any [one of claims 1 to 22] claim 1 which is carried out continuously.